

1986 and the fact that Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent* 3 1968-81) gives no record of such specimens. The second brood here, according to my m.v. trap observations appears to extend over a period of about a month during July and August, rarely late June. However, two other possible third brood moths have appeared at the light — September 9th 1979 (second brood 12.vii-7.viii) and September 18th 1982 (second brood 5.vii-7.viii).

This Journal makes reference to several further examples — one in 1952 of which no detail is given (*Ent. Rec.* 65: 48), two at Weston-super-Mare on November 10th 1956 (*Ent. Rec.* 69: 20), Southend on September 15th 1969 (*Ent. Rec.* 82: 16) and Wimbledon on September 9th 1970 (*Ent. Rec.* 83:205). In addition the Essex Naturalists' Trust (*A Guide to the Butterflies and Larger Moths of Essex, 1975*) regarding voltinism in *bistortata* concludes "not infrequently yet again in September and early October." Unfortunately no detail is given as to how frequently, and exactly when and where. Regarding the standard textbooks only South (*Moths of the British Isles, 1939*) notes that specimens have been observed in September and October. One wonders if apparent third brood *bistortata* are as scarce and so localized as the few published records suggest? What is perhaps more important, without such records coming to notice by being published, changes in their distribution and frequency cannot be assessed. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

LATE RECORDS OF HYPSPYOGIA COSTALIS FAB. AND ORTHOPYGIA GLAUCINALIS L. (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) — Goater (*British Pyralid Moths, 1986*) gives both *H. costalis* and *O. glaucinalis* as being univoltine, flying in July and August. I recorded *H. costalis* from my garden light trap on 1st, 14th, 15th, and 16th October 1986 and a single *O. glaucinalis* on 14th October 1986. One possible explanation is that both species inhabited a fermenting compost heap, the heat from which advanced their development. IAN D. FERGUSON, 31 Cathcart Drive, Orpington, BR6 8BU.

POLYPHAENIS SERICATA (ESP) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE). FIRST GUERNSEY RECORD FOR 80 YEARS. — On the evening of 14th August 1986 we were working the m.v. light at Petit Bot, at the bottom of a wooded valley on the south coast of Guernsey. We were just on the point of giving up after recording 45 species in approximately two hours when a very well-marked noctuid settled on the sheet. The moth, slightly smaller than *Noctua comes* (lesser yellow underwing), was pale green with fine black edging to the stigmata, a broad olive green terminal band and fine white markings dorsally to the antemedian and subterminal fascia. As if the markings on the forewing were not striking enough the hind

wings were burnt orange with a broad blackish brown terminal shading.

After some research the insect was eventually identified in *Atlas d'Entomologie Lepidopteres de France*, Tome II as *Polyphaenis sericata*. The distribution is given as 'all of France with the exception of the northern regions'. This moth is figured in Michael Chinery's new *Collins Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe*.

This species was first recorded in Guernsey by the eminent local entomologist Mr. W. A. Luff in July 1872 at sugar and that specimen was figured in *Entomologist* 9: 73. In Luff's article on Non-British insects published in the 1907 *Transactions of The Guernsey Society of Natural Science and Local Research* (now *La Societe Guernesiaise*) he states that he had taken several more specimens.

As far as local records show this was probably the first Guernsey record of this species for at least eighty years. RICH & MARGARET AUSTIN, Maymyo, Les Amballes, St. Peter Port, Guernsey. C.I.

EXPERIENCES WITH THE WHITE-BARRED CLEARWING, SYNANTHEDON SPHECIFORMIS D. & S. (LEP.: SESIIDAE) — I had long been aware that Mr. B. R. Baker, of Reading, was very knowledgeable about that fascinating family of moths, the clearwings. Accordingly, in May 1986, I rang him and asked if he could help me with *spheciformis*. Up to quite recent times here, *spheciformis* mines were made in alder (*Alnus sp.*). Then, following winter cutting by contractors supplying birch for steeplechase fences, the moth became reasonably plentiful in the stumps of birch. These stumps were usually between 1 and 8 cm diameter and an average of 24 cm above ground level.

Mr. Baker told me that the cutting of birch, on the heath south of Reading, had not been as great as usual; but that it might be possible to locate a few mines. Accordingly, on 14th May I joined him for a search of the Reading heaths. It was a cold day, with some persistent rain; our spirits were not much lifted by the observation that many pupae had been removed by birds. However, under Brian Baker's excellent guidance, we cut a few stumps which held possibilities, some showing clearly the exit prepared by the larva — a circle of bark 6 mm diameter, slightly discoloured, which gave under slight pressure.

In all, eleven sticks were cut. For their reception I had prepared a small aquarium (33cm x 24cm) with 8cm of sand covering the bottom. Into this I stuck my birch sticks, gave the sand a good watering, covered the top with a piece of plate glass, and placed the entire structure in a glasshouse. Unfortunately, when the sun shone, the aquarium misted up. Removing the glass top produced a breath of tropical heat. Before long the birch twigs had come into